

Regular Council Meeting January 5, 2026

Mayor Stan Townsend called the meeting to order at 5:00 p.m. In attendance were Darwin Sietsema, Brian Baartman, Chris McCurdy, and Stu Peterson. Also in attendance were Darrin Haroldson and Rochelle VanderWoude.

The Pledge of Allegiance was recited by all those in attendance.

Minutes of the December meeting were approved by M/Baartman 2/Peterson/cd unanimously.

Organization Resolution 2026-01 was adopted and approved by M/Peterson 2/Sietsema/cd unanimously.

OFFICIAL DEPOSITORY – First Independent Bank

OFFICIAL NEWSPAPER – Tyler Tribute

CITY ATTORNEY – Matt Gross

ASSISTANT MAYOR – Darwin Sietsema

The September 7, 2026 meeting has been changed to September 8, 2026 due to the Labor Day Holiday by M/Baartman 2/McCurdy/cd unanimously.

The December bills were presented and approved by M/Baartman 2/Sietsema/cd unanimously.

RECEIPTS = \$203,699.40 DISBURSEMENTS = \$59,325.09

The council approved a donation of \$200.00 for the RTR After-Prom by M/Baartman 2/McCurdy/cd unanimously. The council feels the After-Prom is to provide a safe environment for our young people to go to and that Ruthton really has no place to go.

After receiving some misinformation on ACH payments the council discussed and decided to absorb the ACH fees in the utility account for 2026 by M/Peterson 2/McCurdy/cd unanimously.

The city received a quote for Website Upgrade and New Design. Option 1: You get a new design, and your website gets transferred to the new platform for a one-time cost of \$800.00; or Option 2: You stay on the same design, but your website gets transferred to the new platform, which is a much cheaper option at a one-time cost of \$300.00.

It was approved to go with Option 2 by M/Baartman 2/Sietsema/cd unanimously. The contract costs for the next three years will be \$2170.00 for 2026, \$1870.00 for 2027, and \$1870.00 for 2028.

The meeting went into closed session for employee reviews. Both Darrin Haroldson and Rochelle VanderWoude received a 2.8% wage increase.

Wastewater Supervisor, Darrin Haroldson gave the council his report for the month of December and answered the council's questions.

The meeting adjourned at 6:05 pm by M/Baartman

Rochelle VanderWoude  
Ruthton City Clerk/Treasurer